

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05098 071000Z

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ACTION INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5149

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5098

DEPT PLEASE PASS USBURMINES FOR ACTION

DEPT PLS PASS USGS, ERDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: INDIAN COAL MINES OFFICIALS TO ATTEND AMC COAL SHOW

1. COAL INDIA LIMITED (CIL), A PUBLIC SECTOR CORPORATION, INTENDS TO SEND A TEAM OF 3 OFFICIALS TO THE AMC COAL SHOW MAY 10-13 IN DETROIT. THEY INCLUDE (A) B L WADHERA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, CENTRAL COALFIELDS LIMITED, RANCHI (BIHAR); AND (B) S P MATHUR AND A. BANERJEE, REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL MINING PLANNING AND DESIGN INSTITUTE (CMPDI), NAGPUR (MAHARASHTRA) AND ASANSOL (WEST BENGAL).

2. IN THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE COAL SHOW, THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL HAS REQUESTED THAT THE TEAM OBTAIN SOME CURRENT IMPRESSIONS OF US COAL MINING TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT BY VISITING AN OPEN PIT AND AN UNDERGROUND COAL MINE, WHICH IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYING SHORT OR LONG WALL MINING TECHNOLOGY, A LARGE COAL BENEFICIATION PLANT WHICH INCLUDES DESHALING OPERATIONS AND MINE SUPPORTING WORKSHOPS. WADHERA, WHO WILL HEAD THE TEAM, HAS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A BRIEF EXPOSURE TO THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF A MAJOR COAL COMPANY. A DIALOGUE WITH EXECUTIVES OF THE NATIONAL COAL ASSOCIATION (NCA) AND WITH OFFICIALS OF THE USBURMINES AND ERDA IN COAL MARKETING AND RESEARCH WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST. HOWEVER, DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS DEPARTMENT OF COAL HAS REQUESTED THE VISIT BE

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 05098 071000Z

LIMITED TO ABOUT THREE CITIES. OF THESE WASHINGTON, D.C. AND SAN

FRANCISCO ARE REQUESTED STOPS.

33. BACKGROUND: COAL INDIA LIMITED (COL, CALCUTTA, FORMERLY KNOWN AS COAL MINES AUTHORITY LIMITED (CMAL), WAS CREATED AS A HOLDING COMPANY ON NOVEMBER 1, 1975 AS A FURTHER STEP TOWARD INTEGRATING AND STREAMLINING THE STRUCTURAL AND MANAGEMENT SET UP OF INDIA'S COAL INDUSTRY. ITS FIVE SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES INCLUDE (1) EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED (ECL) IN SANCTORIA, (3) WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED (WCL) IN NAGPUR, (3) BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED (BCCL) IN DHANBAD (4) CENTRAL COALFIELDS LIMITED (CCL) IN RANCHI AND (5) THE CENTRAL MINE PLANNING AND DESIGN INSTITUTE (CMPDI) ALSO IN RANCHI. THE LATTER COMPANY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING PROJECT REPORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MINES. EXCLUDED FROM CIL'S JURISDICTION ARE THE SINGARENI COAL MINES IN ANDHRA PRADESH AND THE CAPTIVE COAL MINES OF TATA IRON AND STEEL AND INDIAN IRON AND STEEL COMPANIES ALTHOUGH THE GOI HAS TAKEN OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF IISCO'S MINES.

4. INDIA'S TOTAL COAL PRODUCTION IN IFY 1975/76 WAS A RECORD HIGH OF 99.88 MILLION METRIC TONS (MT) EXCEEDING THE TARGET BY 1.88 MILLION MT. THE PRODUCTION GOAL FOR IFY 76/77 IS 108 MILLION MT. DESPITE CURRENT INVENTORIES OF ABOUT 10 MILLION MT AT PIT HEADS AND 30 TO 45 DAY SUPPLIES AT MOST CONSUMER DEPOTS (ALMOST DOUBLE THE NORMAL) CIL'S PLAN CALL FOR FURTHER MECHANIZATION OF OPEN PIT AND UNDERGROUND MINES TO IMPROVE OUTPUT.

5. BY THE END OF THE CURRENT FIFTH YEAR PLAN 1978/79 PRODUCTION IS TO REACH 135 MILLION MT. FOR THE REMAINING THREE YEARS OF THE CURRENT PLAN RS. 3.33 BILLION (DOLS379 MILLION) EXCLUDING BCCL, HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR UNDERGROUND (DOLS281 MILLION) AND OPEN PIT (DOLS 98 MILLION) MINING EQUIPMENT.

6. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO EXPOSE LEADING INDIAN COAL EXECUTIVES TO MODERN TECHNIQUES USED IN THE US. AS NOTED ABOVE, CIL WILL BE PURCHASING LARGE AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. AT PRESENT US SALES PROSPECTS ARE NOT GOOD DUE TO ABSENCE OF CREDIT AND LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH US EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, EVEN A BRIEF VISIT TO US FACILITIES MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THE LATTER REGARD.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 05098 071000Z

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT USDOC IN CONJUNCTION WITH USBURMINES SET UP TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR CIL OFFICIALS AND APPRISE THE EMBASSY OF PROPOSED ITINERARY ASAP SO THAT WE MAY PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL.SCHNEIDER

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